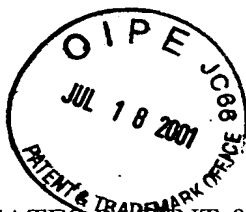


0557-4931-2



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

:

KATSUHIRO AOKI ET AL.

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2852

SERIAL NO: 09/535,158

:

FILED: MARCH 24, 2000

: EXAMINER: GRAINGER, Q.

FOR: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
METHOD AND DEVELOPING DEVICE
TO OBTAIN A STABLE IMAGE DENSITY

#7/A
Gruen
7/24/01

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed April 18, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 12 and 14 as indicated in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

14 ~~12~~ (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a latent image bearing member having a potential thereon; and

a developing device configured to perform a two-level developing operation with a one-component developer including toner particles, the developing device including,

a conveyor member configured to convey the one-component developer to a developing region where part of the developer-bearing member is closely spaced next to a part of the latent image bearing member;